Middleware Specific Principles:

1. Middleware technologies will be used to develop the logical partitioning of applications and databases within all n-tier architecture patterns. These technologies include traditional message oriented middleware, event driven communications, request-reply paradigms or web based messaging approaches.

2. Middleware products and solutions will use industry-based standards supporting an open architecture, thus minimizing dependencies on proprietary technologies.

3. Middleware products and solutions must be scalable in size, capacity, and functionality to meet changing business and technology requirements.

4. Middleware components and implementations will consist of a small number of standard products choices and configurations (or stacks) designed for cross platform deployment and integration. The components and configurations will cover both Microsoft centric and Java centric environments.

5. Messaging products and configurations should be used whenever possible. Preference will be given to asynchronous communication run in pseudo-synchronous mode for Service Oriented Architecture implementations.